

HONORING CHRISTA HARMOTTO
OF THE USA OLYMPIC TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Christa Harmotto, an outstanding athlete selected to the United States Olympic Team from the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Harmotto's Olympic Volleyball side has done very well to this point of the competition, and has earned an undefeated record following their first three matches in their group.

Christa Harmotto was brought up in Hopewell Township, PA where she excelled at sports from a young age. In high school, as a multiple year letterman for volleyball and basketball, Christa won the Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year. She then transferred her high school success to that at Penn State, where she chose to continue her pursuit of volleyball. Her student athlete career was one of great success and achievement, as she acted as an integral member of a two-time national championship team, while simultaneously attaining All-American status for four straight years. A prominent figure on the squad as a middle blocker, Christa makes her Olympic debut in 2012. I am positive she will continue to fight valiantly and work hard for her side in their journey to win the gold medal.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this Olympic hero of Pennsylvania's 9th district. With her effort and determination, this young lady is destined to do great things for our country and the 9th district of Pennsylvania. I am very proud of her hard work and determination to win for the United States Olympic Team, and will continue to track her team's success throughout the duration of their competition. I hope you join me in wishing Christa and the rest of our Olympic athletes well in their respective competitions at this year's Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537 due to a travel delay stemming from yesterday's inclement weather, I was unable to cast my vote on this legislation.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Critical Path Institute, a non-profit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, that plays an important role in helping to improve the way that much-needed drugs are brought to the market.

Critical Path, or C-Path, was founded six years ago by the University of Arizona and the

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is not affiliated with any single entity or interest group—a status that allows C-Path to serve as an effective and objective facilitator among scientists from the government, academia and the private sector.

C-Path was founded after the FDA called attention to an alarming decline in the number of innovative medical products being submitted for government approval. The FDA cited the need for applied research to bridge the gap between basic scientific research and medical product development.

Since then, C-Path has worked with scientists from academia as well as biotechnology companies, the government and the pharmaceutical industry to develop innovative new testing methods. This enables life-saving drugs, devices and biological products to reach patients faster and with proven safety.

Developing effective drugs and medical devices is a lengthy and expensive process—even under the best of circumstances. It is a process that can take more than 12 years and cost \$1 billion in laboratory research and testing. About 95 percent of new compounds fail during development.

C-Path has demonstrated that public/private partnerships focused on noncompetitive consensus science have the capacity to provide new tools so drug developers can speed important new medicines from discovery to patients more quickly.

C-Path was founded by Dr. Raymond L. Woosley, who stepped down as president and CEO earlier this year. He was succeeded by Dr. Carolyn Compton, an internationally respected scientist with extensive experience in translational science and personalized medicine.

I am proud to recognize the Critical Path Institute, based in Tucson, Arizona, for its important role in improving the way that researchers, academia, the private sector and government work together to bring needed medical advancements to the people who need them.

C-Path has shown us what is possible when we work in partnership and collaboration to solve important national concerns.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND
SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian nuclear threat is a daunting and dangerous challenge. With Iran stalling diplomatic talks, adding enrichment centrifuges, and continuing work at unmonitored enrichment sites, there is frustration and alarm that time may be running out. But time has not run out and if we are to avert a military confrontation with Iran over its nuclear weapons ambitions, we must make use of every opportunity to pressure Iran to change course. This bill achieves that goal with sanctions that are deeper and stronger than any we have ever seen.

Without a doubt sanctions against Iran are having a powerful impact. In the last year alone, exports of Iranian oil have dropped by sixty percent. The value of Iran's currency has

plummeted by more than one-third. Full tankers are idling in Iranian harbors unable to sell crude in the world market. Although Iran has attempted to work around the sanctions by re-flagging vessels and hiding transactions, the shell game isn't sustainable. Sanctions announced by President Obama in recent days and weeks and those authorized in the bill before us today will tighten the grip.

Our message to Iran is loud and clear—there is no escaping accountability. The consequences of defying the international community and continuing an illegal nuclear program are severe and they will be gravely worse if the Iranian government continues on its current course.

This bill is our third round of congressional sanctions legislation since the Obama Administration successfully galvanized U.N. Security Council support for multilateral sanctions against the Iranian nuclear program in June 2010. Together with sanctions enacted in July 2010 and December 2011, the sanctions in the bill before us today reinforce the message to countries, companies and financial institutions that now is not the time for business as usual with Iran.

The bill gives the Administration an array of new tools to shore up international resolve. It has sharp enforcement mechanisms to help enlist other countries in the effort to starve the Iranian nuclear program of cash flows from Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the National Iranian Oil Company, the National Iranian Tanker Company, and other Iranian banks, businesses and government entities being used to funnel money into nuclear activities.

The bill also expands sanctions against Iranian and Syrian officials responsible for human rights abuses by using electronic monitoring and tracking of regime opposition and specifically targets the paramilitary organizations that have been most insidious in terrorizing democracy activists.

But what this bill does not do is authorize war with Iran. In fact, the bill explicitly says so. I want to underscore that point, because the motivation of the sanctions is to pressure Iranian leaders to abide by the International Atomic Energy Agency's demands and negotiate in good faith and to avoid a military escalation.

As President Obama has stated clearly, the United States does not have a policy of containment. All options are on the table if Iran does not change course. By passing this legislation we will continue to leave no stone unturned in our determination to try and achieve a diplomatic resolution to this crisis.

HONORING MR. JOE HECKSTALL

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia State Representative Joe Heckstall on the occasion of his retirement from the Georgia General Assembly. For thirty-one years, Joe has served the people of Georgia, first as a City Councilman for the City of East Point, Georgia and then as a State Representative from Georgia's 62nd House District. These many years of public